

What's Up at Sha'ar Zahav

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

S'lichot Service, 8:00 pm

S'lichot Service: An introspective, reflective service that commences the High Holy Day season. For centuries, Jews have gathered in synagogues on Saturday evening near Rosh Hashanah to prepare for the sacred season of self-scrutiny and renewal with a service called S'lichot, "forgiveness." We will begin with Havdalah, marking the end of Shabbat, and will continue with a moving service. Explore High Holiday musical and religious themes as they touch our emotions and move us toward self-judgment and new resolutions. This hour of worship is one of the most inspiring of the year.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

Teshuva in Body * Teshuva in Spirit with Dr. Zvi Bellin, 7:00-8:30 pm

Settle into your body – the vehicles of spiritual work. We will use the text of our own narratives to bring us insight for the coming year. You can expect to share in intimate conversations in a safe and caring community.

(continued on page 4)

2012 Leadership Advance

BY DANIEL CHESIR, FOUNDER

Many of you know that early on in CSZ's history we decided that, while other congregations or organizations had retreats, we were a synagogue that was always going forward—hence, the annual *Leadership Advance*. So, I've been going to these Advances since they started. (OK, so I missed a few, but who's counting?).

The Advances have been a chance for CSZ's leadership (and potential leaders, as well) to collectively think about and plan for our community on a broader, more long-term basis than is available at Va'ad or committee meetings, or for a few minutes at the Oneg. One or two of the



Advances—at times of congregational stress points—were a bit painful; most of them were pleasant, very effective at relationship-building, but at times, a bit unfocused in terms of what we hoped to accomplish in the coming year.

The brainstorming generated by the Advances is intended to become action plans. We've done this with various degrees of effectiveness. But this year was different!

The Congregation adopted the Strategic Plan at the Annual Meeting in May, so this Advance was focused on implementing that Plan. Five Task Forces have been formed, each coordinated by one of our officers: Programming, Ritual, Finance, Connection, and Membership. Each attendee at the Advance joined one of the Task Forces and helped to formulate a task-specific and time-specific action plan, which will serve as a road-map in the coming year. Particularly because there's so much overlap between and among the five areas, much time was spent in interaction between Task Forces, with lots of cross-fertilization taking place.

In all my years as an Advance attendee, this Advance was the most focused and action-oriented weekend. In the coming months, you'll be hearing about the work of the Task Forces (and will undoubtedly be asked to participate!).

If we all look happy in this picture, it's because we have a clear idea of what we should be doing in the coming year to make CSZ a thriving and healthy Jewish community.

The Day Will Do its Job When We Do Ours.



ARE YOU BRAVE enough to be forgiving?

Are you willing to take chances on yourself and on the people in your life?

Yom Kippur reminds us that we have what it takes, and that if we take those chances, we will find greater fulfillment and peace than we often imagine is possible.

Yom Kippur promises us that we will be fine—fully forgiven for anything we have done. According to Leviticus 16:30, “for on this day atonement will be made and we will be purified.” The verse has no qualifications or limitations. It reassures us that there is no transgression so big it cannot be redressed. The day will do its job, but will we do ours?

According to the prophet Isaiah, God forgives us because God wants to forgive, and therefore, all will be forgiven. Are we ready to say the same regarding those who have trans-

gressed against us? Are we willing to be as brave as God when it comes to forgiveness?

Sacred bravery is about forgiving others and doing so because we want to, because it helps us be who we most need to be. And then it invites us to go even one step further.

Sacred bravery is not only about granting forgiveness, but also about seeking it. It's about trusting that nothing is truly unforgivable as long as we are willing to work it out with the ones we have wronged. It may take time, but it can all be forgiven. That is the promise of Yom Kippur.

This year be brave. However and wherever you spend this Yom Kippur, take the time to think about one person from whom you have not yet sought forgiveness but need to. What first concrete step will you take to move in that direction?

Consider also how you will grant forgiveness to someone who needs it from you. What has kept you from doing so until now, and how can you move beyond that barrier?

In this season of reflection and repair, return and renewal, may we each find the courage and resolution of spirit to confront the past. In doing so, we will have new strength to face the future.

With my full heart, I pray that the year ahead, 5773 be a year of great growth and deep peace for us and our community, indeed for the whole world.

Shana tova u'metuka!
Rabbi Camille Shira

Come and Study the Weekly Torah Portion

with **Daniel Chesir and
Rabbi Camille Shira Angel**
Every Monday Night - 7:30pm
Congregation Sha'ar Zahav
Begining with Bereshit
October 8, Simchat Torah

We will use every available commentary,
including our own life expeiences, to render
the text meaningful.

Congregation Sha'ar Zahav

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Congregation Sha'ar Zahav is a member
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Building Connections



EMAIL. VOICE MAIL. Text messages. Facebook posting. Blogs. Tweets. Those are some of the ways we communicate in 2012. We use these tools to stay involved in each other's lives. They can be quite effective in keeping us linked. On the other hand,

one can also observe people being together and using communication technology, but not really connected with one other. I recently saw three guys sitting together in Starbucks. One was talking on his cell phone; another was listening to his iPod; the third fellow was typing on his laptop. To my eyes, the only thing they were sharing was the table.

Social interactions were not always so disembodied or impersonal.

I grew up in the 1950s. We lived in a typical Chicago two-flat building in a typical Chicago neighborhood. Our block was an endless line of almost identical buildings.

In that era, the black rotary dial phone was a state of the art communication device. Outgoing phone calls cost a nickel apiece, so my family didn't make many. Our apartment was outfitted with communication technology that was less expensive and more ingenious than a rotary dial telephone.

There was frequent "social networking" between my mother and her best friend, who lived in the building next door, on the second floor, just as we did. My mother and her friend didn't talk on the phone. Instead, their communication system relied on navy beans.

There was a whole bag of hard, uncooked navy beans in the bathroom. When these friends wanted to talk, one of them would open the bathroom window, line up a few beans on the windowsill and flick them at the other's bathroom window. The pings of navy beans indicated it was time to talk. That's how these two friends regularly "called" each other.

Am I waxing nostalgic for the communication technology of bygone days? I don't think so. I'm not prepared to give up my iPad, iPod, laptop, and smartphone! However, I do believe we could do a better job today of communicating the old fashioned way—in person.

In July and August, Rabbi Angel held a series of three salons in members' homes. These get-togethers proved very successful. Members who may not have known each other were brought together in an intimate setting for a little bit of teaching, a little bit of conversing, and a little bit of noshing.

This strikes me as a winning formula to continue expanding and deepening the connections between Congregation Sha'ar Zahav members.

After High Holy Days, we are going to kick off a series of informal "coffees." The focus will be on conversing, noshing and getting to know each other better. The mix of members may vary, but the theme will be consistent: getting to know each other better and building connections throughout our community. Not disconnectedly inhabiting the same space, like the three guys I saw in Starbucks, but establishing meaningful connections between us.

That's among the main goals of our Strategic Plan. One of the Task Forces created to implement the Strategic Plan, Connections, will sponsor these informal coffees. The congregation's Officers and Va'ad members will be hosting them, which will ensure open avenues for your questions and concerns. During these get-togethers, members will have an opportunity to build old fashioned, personal relationships with each other.

Watch for your invitation to attend one of the coffees... delivered (ironically) by email, voice mail, text message or Facebook posting.

Va'ad Members

Ann Bauman
Aaron Buchbinder
Patty Caplan
Kelly Cytron
Andy Fyne
Sara Haber
Erika Katske
Andrew Ramer
Beth Ross
Karen Schiller, Immediate Past President

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What's Up at Sha'ar Zahav

(continued from page 1)

Services

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

Tashlich, 2:00 pm

The Tashlich brown-bag (bring-your-own) picnic will begin at 2:00 pm followed by a service at 3:00 pm, led by Rabbi Angel and Isaac Zones. This year Tashlich returns to the East Beach at Crissy Field.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

Kever Avot v'Imahot (Hills of Eternity Cemetery), 10-11:30 am

Please join us for a brief service at the graveside of friends and family who are buried in our synagogue cemetery. Services will be led by Sha'ar Zahav member

Paul Cohen and Rabbi Angel. Food and shared memories will follow services.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

Friday Night Live, 6 pm

Shabbat Shalom, youngsters! Come celebrate Shabbat at a special service designed for 0 to 6 year-olds and their families. Our lively FNL service is followed by dinner in the Oneg Room. Pizza is provided (sponsored by parents) and we encourage grown-ups to bring a vegetarian dish to share.

We are delighted to be welcoming back Isaac Zones and our new student co-leader Avidan Novogrodsky-Godt. Mark your calendar! Your child will not want to miss even one! Please bring coins so your child can participate in tzedakah.

September 28

October 26

November 30

December 14—Special family Chanukah celebration

January 25

February 22

March 22

April 26

May 24

We need your support for FNL! Please sponsor a FNL Shabbat by sending a check for \$150 or any amount possible. Consider sponsoring a month that is significant to your child and/or family. Contributions are used to provide dinner. If you have any questions, please email Alisa Gilden, the new FNL coordinator, at aliasalisa@yahoo.com.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

Erev Sukkot, 6:30 pm

Come and celebrate the beginning of Sukkot. This service will be led by Cantor Sharon Bernstein.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 6

Shabbat in the Sukkah!

Sukkot in Dolores Park, 10:15 am

Join us for our annual *z'man simchateinu*, the season of celebration. Our regular Shabbat morning service, including *bensching* lulav and chanting Hallel, will be held at our sukkah in Dolores Park (east side, near Dolores Street). Kiddush, motzi, and pot-luck vegetarian picnic to follow.

PRACTICE AREAS

Divorce

Domestic Partner
Dissolution

Separation

Property & Pension
Distribution

Alimony

Custody

Visitation

Child Support

Restraining Orders

Paternity

Pre-Marital
Agreements

Post-Divorce Disputes

Modification of Orders

Appeals



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whether in a traditional or
alternative family setting.

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Bring musical instruments, sing Shabbat zemirot and psalms of thanksgiving, dance, and maybe even dance a bit!

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 7

Erev Simchat Torah

Family Service, 6:30 pm

Simchat Torah Service, 7:00 pm

Join Congregation Sha'ar Zahav for a festive celebration of Simchat Torah. At this special Shabbat service, we celebrate completing and renewing again our annual cycle of reading the Torah, with song, a Klezmer band, and dancing.

Programs and Classes

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 28

Teen Keshet, 4:00-7:00 pm

Teens connecting, learning, and having FUN!! Teen Keshet is our new program for 8th-10th graders. The program will meet six Sundays throughout the year for a mix of Jewish and social/fun activities. Some of the outings will include bowling, visiting the Contemporary Jewish Museum, Berkeley Day, Bay Area/Israel, and more. The different activities will be facilitated by Rebecca Weiner, Rabbi Angel, and counselors. This is a great way for the teens to stay connected, have fun, and be a part of the Congregation Sha'ar Zahav Community. The program is on Sundays, 4-7 pm. Program dates are:

October 28
November 18
January 27
February 24
March 16
May 19

Congregation Sha'ar Zahav is Going to Cuba!

APRIL 28 – MAY 6, 2013

Havana, Cienfuegos, Santa Clara, Trinidad de Cuba

Join other Congregation Sha'ar Zahav members and on a voyage of cultural discovery and humanitarian effort. Cuba is changing rapidly; now is the time to visit this fascinating country. We will leave from Miami on April 29, 2013 and spend 8 days and 7 nights in Cuba – 5 nights in Havana and two nights in Cienfuegos, with side trips to Santa Clara and Trinidad de Cuba. We

High Holy Day Schedule

ROSH HASHANAH

Sunday, September 16, 2012

7:30 pm Ma'ariv (Oneg to follow)

Monday, September 17, 2012

9:30 am Shacharit & Musaf

9:30 am Family Services

2:00 pm Tashlich brown-bag picnic at Crissy Field

3:00 pm Tashlich service at Crissy Field

Tuesday, September 18, 2012

9:30 am Shacharit & Musaf at CSZ

YOM KIPPUR

Tuesday, September 25, 2012

7:30 pm Kol Nidre

Wednesday, September 26, 2012

9:30 am Shacharit & Musaf

9:30 am Family Service for pre-readers

9:30 am Service for Readers

1:30 pm Mincha Service

2:30 pm Niggun Service

3:30 pm Study Sessions, 1A, 1B

4:30 pm Study Sessions, 2A, 2B

5:30 pm Yizkor & Neilah

7:30 pm Break the fast

will meet with members of the Jewish communities, discover the art, architecture, music, and food of this beautiful land and experience the vibrancy and excitement that is Cuba today. For more information, please see the brochure on the CSZ website or contact Karen Schiller at kschiller@igc.org

Chavurot

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 10:00 AM

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 6, 10:00 AM

Meditation Chavurah

All are welcome to join us at our monthly meeting of the Meditation Chavurah. We gather in the reception area at Congregation Sha'ar Zahav at about 10:00 am, and walk to the nearby home of a member to sit in a lovely, peaceful setting. A typical gathering includes a short and longer silent sit, often including a guided portion; some chanting; reflecting; and perhaps a short teaching. For more information, contact the office, or Sarita at sarita@igc.org

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 6:00 PM

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 12, 6:00 PM

East Bay Chavurah

Congregation Sha'ar Zahav members and their guests are invited to CSZ's East Bay Chavurah, held the second Friday of every month. Our evening begins with blessings and a vegetarian/vegan potluck. At 7:30, adults and teens continue our Shabbat experience with some meaningful text-based Jewish dialogue. To RSVP or host a future event, please contact Jessica Israel Cannon at jjisrael68@yahoo.com.

Meetings

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 6:45 PM

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 10, 6:45 PM

Va'ad Meeting

All are welcome to attend and listen to Congregation Sha'ar Zahav's monthly board meeting with its pre-set agenda.

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Food for Jewish Thought

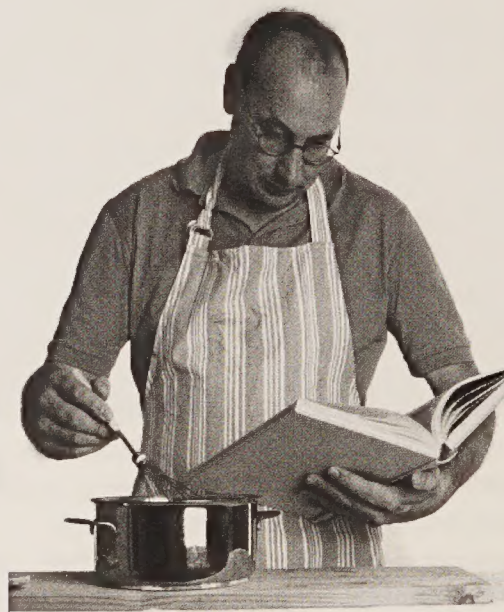


*Better one friend with a
dish of food than a hundred
with a sigh*

*Besser ain freint mit gekechts
aider hundert mit a krechts*

I HAVE BEEN thinking a lot lately about Jewish food—the cooking, history, and eating of said food. Many things have informed this musing on the topic. I had a discussion earlier in the Summer with the Rabbi about starting a Jewish foods class for our sixth and seventh graders (which I intend to do), our Beit Sefer fundraiser which will focus on kugel, and my desire to continue to find ways to maintain the integrity of our project-based curriculum.

Jewish food is such an important part of our cultural heritage. It speaks to our Jewish dietary laws and our rituals and Jewish festivals. The details of what we eat, how we eat it, when we eat it are all integral parts of our Jewish tradition. For my own enjoyment, I have been reading a lot over the summer about the history and customs surrounding Jewish foods. I have found that reading several Jewish cookbooks is actually a lesson in Jewish history. The foods that have been a part of our rituals and celebrations have been reflective our geography, migration patterns, and affluence. I am struck by how important Jewish food was in my family of origin, in my chosen family, and the role it has played in my career as an educator. My childhood is filled with the sensory memories of Jewish food, from the mandel bread that my Bubbe used to send in the mail, the sheer perfection of my mother's literally heavenly matzah balls (they would seem to float out of the bowl). My orthodox sister continued my education in Jewish food, by teaching me all the details of kashruth and expanding my Jewish food vocabulary with foods such as



cholent, schnitzel, rugelach and lokshen kugel. In my own life, I have taken my love of cooking and Judaism and created my own recipes. I particularly love my “blintz” flavored ice cream which is a mixture of ricotta and sour cream ice cream served on a crepe slathered in blueberry coulis. I love how Jewish food is blending with our current local food trends such as eco-Kosher movements that focus on sustainability, Jewish food trucks, Wise Sons deli and more.

Genesis 18:8

Then he took curds and milk and the calf that he had prepared, and set it before them. And he stood by them under the tree while they ate.

In the curriculum I am developing for the sixth and seventh grades, students will learn about Jewish foods through several different mediums. We will study Jewish food through text study, Jewish history, and of course, cooking and eating. We will study Jewish dietary laws and world Jewry through the myriad of Jewish recipes reflective of diaspora Jewry. I feel that this a wonderful example of how a project based lesson can have a great deal of

depth and be active and engaging for students. If you fancy yourself a Jewish cooking maven, please consider coming to join the class as a guest teacher.

Worries go down better with soup.

—Jewish Proverb

In other Jewish food news please save the date for:

FIRST ANNUAL CONGREGATION SHA'AR ZAHAV KUGEL NOSH DOWN

Compete Eat Meet Greet

Sunday December 9, 2012

3:00-5:00 pm

Congregation Sha'ar Zahav

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Limited Number of Competitors

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To ENTER or Get Information:

kugelnoshdown@gmail.com

Purchase Tickets at tickets@noshdown.blogspot.com

That is right, lovers of the kugel; based on the popular cultural phenomenon of the food take-down, we are having our first kugel nosh-down!

Please do tell your friends. This is going to be a fabulous event with yummy kugel, music, and amazing schmoozing! Do you have a fabulous kugel recipe that you have been anxious to share with 150 kugel-loving folks? If so, then sign up to enter our contest! A special kugel shout-out to Julie Weber (baking maven) for her amazing contribution to planning this event and getting kugel to the masses.

Still hungry? Look for more morsels in my weekly update about the upcoming school year!

I hope that your 5773 is filled with sweetness and of course good NOSH!!

L'Shalom,
Rebecca

♦♦ FIRST ANNUAL ♦♦

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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
15 ELUL	16 ELUL Labor Day-office closed	17 ELUL	18 ELUL	19 ELUL 6 pm Biblical Hebrew	20 ELUL 8:15 pm Shabbat Service Joint service with First Mennonite Church	21 ELUL 9 am Torah Study 10:15 am Shabbat Service 8:00 pm S'lichot Service
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
22 ELUL	23 ELUL	24 ELUL	25 ELUL 6:45 pm Va'ad Meeting	26 ELUL 6:00 pm Biblical Hebrew 7:00 pm Teshuva class with Zvi Bellin	27 ELUL 6:00 pm East Bay Chavurah 7:30 pm Shabbat Service	28 ELUL 9 am Torah Study 10:15 am Shabbat Service
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
29 ELUL 7:30 pm Erev Rosh Hashanah	1 TISHREI 9:30 am Rosh Hashanah 2:00 pm Tashlich brown- bag picnic at Crissy Field 3:00 pm Tashlich service at Crissy Field	2 TISHREI 9:30 am Rosh Hashanah, second day service	3 TISHREI	4 TISHREI 6:00 pm Biblical Hebrew	5 TISHREI 7:30 pm Shabbat Service	6 TISHREI 9 am Torah Study 10:15 am Shabbat Service
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
7 TISHREI 10 am Kever Avot v'Imahot	8 TISHREI	9 TISHREI 7:30 pm Erev Yom Kippur	10 TISHREI 9:30 am Yom Kippur service 5:30 pm Yizkor & Veilah	11 TISHREI	12 TISHREI 6:00 pm Friday Night Live 7:30 pm Shabbat Service	13 TISHREI 9 am Torah Study 10:15 am Shabbat Service
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
14 TISHREI 6:30 pm Erev Sukkot Service						

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
21 TISHREI 6:30 pm Family Service 7:00 pm Erev Simchat Torah Service	15 TISHREI	16 TISHREI	17 TISHREI	18 TISHREI 6:00 pm Biblical Hebrew	19 TISHREI 8:15 pm Shabbat Service	20 TISHREI 9 am Torah Study 10:15 am Shabbat Service Sukkah in Dolores Park 10:00 am Meditation Chavurah
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
28 TISHREI	29 TISHREI	30 TISHREI	1 CHESHVAN	2 CHESHVAN 6:00 pm Biblical Hebrew	3 CHESHVAN 7:30 pm Shabbat Service	4 CHESHVAN 9 am Torah Study 10:15 am Shabbat Service
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
5 CHESHVAN	6 CHESHVAN	7 CHESHVAN	8 CHESHVAN	9 CHESHVAN	10 CHESHVAN 6:00pm Friday Night Live 7:30 pm Shabbat Service	11 CHESHVAN 9 am Torah Study 10:15 am Shabbat Service
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
12 CHESHVAN	13 CHESHVAN	14 CHESHVAN	15 CHESHVAN			
28	29	30	31			

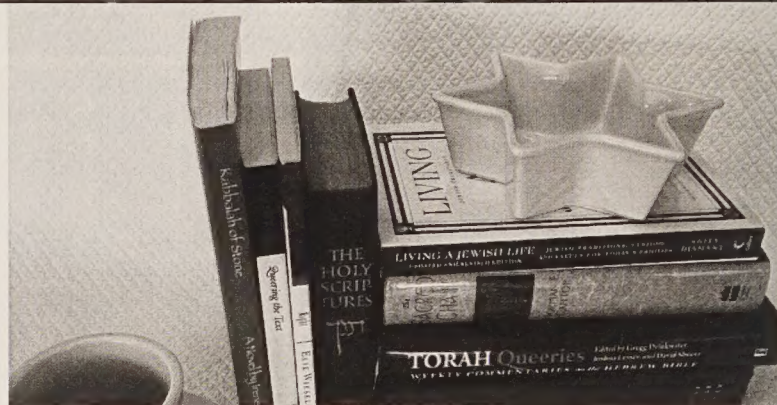
Religious School for Non-member Families

BY REBECCA WIENER

Congregation Sha'ar Zahav announces the new "Journey of Jewish Education Program" for kids in kindergarten through 4th grade whose families are not members of a synagogue. It's a first-of-its-kind program that allows non-synagogue families to enroll in a foundational Jewish Children's Education program and participatory community.

Beit Sefer Phyllis Mintzer is a recognized leader in progressive Jewish Children's Education in San Francisco. It builds on Congregation Sha'ar Zahav's recognized LGBT-positive and gender-inclusive liturgy to celebrate Jewish learning, literacy and diversity. The Journey of Jewish Education Program offers an opportunity to families who aren't members of a synagogue to give their children a fundamental Jewish education before committing to a full B'nei Mitzvah program and synagogue membership.

Beit Sefer Phyllis Mintzer provides a fully integrated children's education program culminating in Bar and Bat Mitzvah with over 80 children from kindergarten to 7th grade. Professionally taught classes instill progressive Jewish values



with a curriculum covering Jewish learning, literacy, and diversity. In addition to classroom lessons, B'nei Mitzvah mentors provide one-on-one guidance to individual students. Beit Sefer Phyllis Mintzer's 20 years of progressive Jewish education has attracted diverse families from throughout San Francisco and the East Bay to our Mission District synagogue.

Information gathering and registration: Learn more at Beit Sefer Phyllis Mintzer Open House, Saturday, September 8 at 9:00 am at 290 Dolores St, San Francisco. All interested parents and children are welcome. For further information contact: Rebecca Wiener, 415.861.6932, rebweiner@gmail.com.

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Our House of Prayer

BY ANDREW RAMER

My house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples.

—Isaiah 56:6-8

Each time I step into our building, I remember those words from the prophet Isaiah, which were engraved above the entrance to the synagogue of my childhood—as a wish perhaps, but never an actual practice. I don't think those words are inscribed on our walls, but they tell the truth about Mishkan Dolores. Each week our beautiful sanctuary is a container for both Jews and Christians, and has been since the First Mennonite Church of San Francisco began to share the building six years ago. And twice a year we all have the opportunity to pray with others in community, making Isaiah's inspiring words even more real.

In September we will be hosting our Third Annual First Mennonite/Congregation Sha'ar Zahav Joint Service. We alternate hosting each other; last year First Mennonite hosted us, as they will again next year. This year at the start of Shabbat Rabbi Angel and Cantor Bernstein will be on the bimah, the First Mennonite Choir will be leading us in song, and one of their members, who comes from an interfaith Jewish/Mennonite family, will be giving the sermon.

Every year since September 11th we have hosted a Thanks-

giving Interfaith Service. Last year Muslim, Buddhist, Christian, and Jewish clergy and lay leaders shared our bimah and led us in prayers from all of those traditions. This year's service will be another reflection of our city's diverse faith communities and another opportunity to do an act of Tikkun Olam, as we will be gathering food to be distributed to those in need.

As we step into our Strategic Planning process, it's useful to remember that one third of our members are in interfaith relationships. Our children reflect a wide range of faith practices in their homes and through their extended families. As we look to building and expanding our community, these two services are wonderful opportunities to sit together in our sanctuary, pray together, sing together, and open our hearts. As we do this we create a welcoming home to all of our members and families, we help to fulfill the ancient words of the prophet Isaiah, and we show the world the face of the future.

The 3rd Annual Congregation Sha'ar Zahav & First Mennonite Joint Service will be held at Congregation Sha'ar Zahav on Friday, September 7, at 8:15 PM. The 12th Annual Thanksgiving Interfaith Service will be held at Congregation Sha'ar Zahav on Tuesday, November 20 at 7 PM.

Please join us, bring your friends and family from all faith traditions and none, and see your weekly email for more information.

Sukkot with Joy Ladin

BY ANDREW RAMER

There are master teachers, and I hope you've had a few of them, whose intellectual gifts thrill the mind and incite us to greater thoughts ourselves. And there are teachers, I hope that you've had a few of them too, whose hearts are as open as the wings of an angel, enfolding us and illuminating our souls. In my experience, it's very rare to study with someone who possesses both of these gifts—and our Sukkot guest Joy Ladin is one of those teachers.

Last October Joy Ladin was in San Francisco, and I was so deeply moved by her Friday night drash that I became a groupie, attending two other talks she gave so that I could continue to bask in her expansive light.

But perhaps you missed the headlines in 2008, when Joy was in the news around the world for returning to her job as an English professor at Yeshiva University, after years of teaching in that Orthodox institution as a man. Joy is also the author of a newly published memoir, *Through the Door of Life: A Jewish Journey Between Genders*, in which she chronicles her journey of transition.

For me what helps to explain why Joy is such an amazing teacher is that she's also the author of several volumes of poetry. It's her poet's wisdom that will turn you into one of her groupies too, because (lucky us!) this Sukkot, Joy Ladin will be teaching and sharing poems and stories in the sukkah of one of our families. Please check your weekly email for more information.



Michael Tyler in the 2011 CSZ Sukkah

CSZ Siddur Bookplate

Ann Bauman in honor of Alex Ingersoll's Bar Mitzvah (x6).

Ron Lezell in honor of Karen Schiller's presidency.

Rabbi Julius & Pearl Funk Music Fund

Jonathan Funk in honor of Karen Schiller's presidency.
wishing Paul Fishman a speedy recovery.

General Fund

Marc Lipschutz in honor of Karen Schiller.

Steve Elman in memory of Hyman Elman.

Eve Meyer & Jim Edlin in memory of Hans Meyer, Marion Meyer & Fredi Field.
in memory of Esther Saslafsky.

Eve Meyer in gratitude for the honor of delivering a d'var Torah.

Jeff Piade in honor of Jeffrey Lilly.

Jerry Rosenstein

Barry Schmell in memory of his father, Abraham Schmell.

Arthur Slepian & Gerry Llamado in honor of the bar mitzvah of Elias Rose.

Ami Zusman in honor of the fabulous presidency of Karen Schiller.
in honor of our terrific new president, James Carlson.

High Holiday Pledges 5772

Marianne Balin

Tiela Chalmers

Lynn Eden & Ruth Schoenbach

Mark Leno

Kendra Lubalin & Aimee Gross

High Holiday Donations

Jerry Rosenstein

Music in the Mishkan Donations

Jerry Rosenstein

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Batya Kalis in appreciation of Rabbi Angel.

Susan Schwartz and Julie Schlesinger in celebration of Judith Wolfe's 65th birthday! With great love.

Rainbow Fund 5772

Judith Bell & Jim Greenberg

Dan Bellm

Phil Charney

Rob Daroff

Alice Harron

Lisa Inman & Alisa Gilden

Nancy Levin

Florence & Steve Nacamulli in loving memory of Allen Harris.

Patty Ryan & Aaron Levine in memory of Ron Bisaga.

Elizabeth & Michael Schaffer

Follow Up to the Israel Survey Committee

BY MARK PRESSLER

As a Congregation, we want to talk about Israel. That was the consensus after sifting through the results of the first ever 2009 Congregational Survey about Congregation Sha'ar Zahav's relationship to Israel and our beliefs about the Israeli/Palestinian conflict. Views were expressed in every area of the spectrum that represents our community, but the one overriding result was "Let's talk."

The Congregation Sha'ar Zahav Leadership heard that call and asked Terry Fletcher to put together a committee that spanned the congregational spectrum of beliefs to follow up on the Survey; and the Follow Up To The Israel Survey Committee (FISC) was born.

The committee, representative of the congregation's span of thought around the issue, met monthly for one and a half years and came up with a thought-provoking slate of events dealing with the Israeli-Palestinian Issue. As a member of the committee, I was energized by the range of views and our ability to work together towards our common goal of getting the Congregation talking.

To bring structure to the discussion, we needed strong facilitators to ensure lively, useful and, above all, civilized discussions; so we hired the Jewish Dialogue Group to train

CSZ members in the art of facilitating around this particular issue.

The stage was now set to deliver a program of speakers/activists and historians. We began in November with a panel of CSZ congregants discussing their relationship to Israel and the Israeli-Palestinian Issue. In December we celebrated Chanukkah with the leaders of Jerusalem Peacemakers, an organization drawing together Jews and Muslims to bring peace to the region. We continued into the spring with Comedian and Juggler, Sara Felder's one-woman show—Out of Sight. We then presented Rabbi Arik Asherman of Rabbis for Human Rights, Shira Wilkof of the Shiek Jarrah Solidarity Movement, and we ended with Stanford Professor and Middle East Historian, Dr. Aron Rodrigue who gave a historical view of the peoples of the region.

All the events were well-attended by very diverse groups of people including congregants and non-congregants, and lively respectful discussions followed each event.

Moving into latter part of 2012 and into 2013, the committee hopes to include more LGBT content into the discussion as well as more political diversity. Congregation Sha'ar Zahav is a community and as such we welcome your suggestions for upcoming programming. To include your ideas, please contact Terry Fletcher at gillianf19@gmail.com.

June**1/2**

Bimah Flowers generously sponsored by **Janet Schemmel** *Deanna Schemmel Shapiro's grandmother, in honor of her bat mitzvah*

Saturday Kiddush Luncheon generously sponsored by **The Schemmel Shapiro Family** *In honor of Deanna's bat mitzvah*

8/9

Bimah Flowers generously donated and arranged by **Jan Haber**

22/23

Bimah Flowers generously donated and arranged by **Jan Haber**

Friday Oneg generously sponsored by **KESKET** *In celebration of PRIDE*

29/30

Bimah Flowers generously sponsored by **Steve Weiner & Norm Dito** *In honor of James Carlson's installation as President of the Va'ad*

Friday Oneg generously sponsored by **CSZ's Past Presidents and Steve Weiner & Norm Dito** *In honor of James Carlson*

July**6/7**

Bimah Flowers generously sponsored by **Jonathan Funk and John Arnold** *In memory of Rabbi Julius & Pearl Funk and Robert & Frances Arnold*

13/14

Friday Oneg generously sponsored by **Allan Gold and Alan Ferrara** *"In honor of our friend Rev. Philip Schmidt and his wife, Ursula"*

27/28

Friday Oneg joyfully sponsored by **Stacia and Lawrence Kopeikin** *in honor of Daniel Sanson's coming to Judaism*

Bimah fruit arrangement generously sponsored by **Bubbie and Papa** *in honor of Daniel Sanson*

Any Interest in an Interest-Free Loan?

The **Hebrew Free Loan Association** has been providing interest-free loans to Jewish residents of Northern California Since 1897. Types of available loans include: Student, Emergency, Adoption, Business, First-time Home Buyer, Health Care, Recently Unemployed, Life Cycle, Debt Consolidation, Institutional (for Jewish communal agencies and synagogues) and Special Needs (for emotionally and physically challenged people).

Since 1897, the Hebrew Free Loan of San Francisco has offered vital financial assistance to more than 100,000 people. Each year, we help more than 400 people to reach their goals and move in the direction of financial security and future success.

We help people to help themselves. Whether we're providing people a way out of their financial distress, or helping them to realize a life-long dream, our recipients maintain dignity and self-sufficiency as they repay their interest-free loans.

If you, or someone you know, needs financial assistance and would like to apply for an interest-free loan, please contact us by phone (415-546-9902) or email (info@hflasf.org). Check out our website for more information: www.hflasf.org.

Naches

Mazel Tov to Deanna Schemmel Shapiro on her bat mitzvah.

Mazel Tov to River Castaneda on his bar mitzvah.

Mazel Tov to Neil Hart who placed first in all eight swimming events he entered at the Gay Games in Iceland.

Mazel Tov to Jonathan Crosby, Susan Belau and big brother, Simon, on the July 12 birth of new baby, Daniel.

Mazel Tov to Daniel Sanson on his welcoming into the Covenant.

Mazel Tov to Daniel Chesir on his retirement.

Mazel Tov to Erika Katske and Rabbi Reuben Zellman on their aufruf.

Condolences

Our condolences to Janis Portal on the death of her friend, Mark Schiffner.

Our condolences to Amy Schustack and William Schustack on the loss of their aunt and sister-in-law, Helen Schustack.

Our condolences to A.J. Turpen Fried on the death of his aunt, Katrina Nelson.

New Members

Welcome to new members:

Sara Berooff and Evan Richards


Julie Minoff and daughter, Tasha

Jonathan Yorba



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Please Be in Touch With Me

I am eager to be in touch with all members of the CSZ family whenever there are occasions of joy or sadness in your lives.

Where there is a death in the family, please call me as soon as possible.

We very much want to be there with you at a time of grief.

*Rabbi Camille
Shira Angel*

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*Samuel L. Salkin, Executive Director
Helen Schwartz, Pre-need Counselor*

Member Yahrzeits

September

- 1 John Golebowski
- 3 Lee Giersen
- 5 Frances Pechter
- 6 Elliot Klein
- 11 Daniel McGoldrick
- 15 David Pierce
- 18 Penny Dachinger
- 20 Edward Wolberg
- 25 Jeffrey Lewis Cohen

October

- 3 Rabbi Benjamin Marcus
- 6 Jeffrey Miller
- 8 Duane Kearns Puryear
- 12 Andrew Zysman
- 13 Harry Clint Bigglestone
- 18 Henry Mautner
- 24 Glenn Murray Miller
- 29 Michael Mohr



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